September 26, 1984

Dear Harold,

I have a request to make, the impetus for which comes from both my own research and from the urgings of some of my sources of MLK data. Specifically, what about the possibility of my having a conversation with Ray? Let me explain the genesis and parameters of this idea.

For openers, some of the most valuable sources I have--the real Eric Galt, two Toronto journalists, the real John Willard and a Toronto cop who worked on the case--have urged (even, at times, I would say--pressured) me to try to ask Ray some questions about the aliases. I agree that it would surely be historically-journalistically valuable to my research to be able to ask some questions, even if there is little or no chance of obtaining an illuminating answer.

There are only two matters that I want to inquire about--matters which, respecting your differing opinions about what is and is not important--I regard as important; matters concerning which I am expert (although my knowledge of this case in toto is surely at comic-book levels compared to your encyclopedic grasp): 1. the Galt alias 2. the "fat man". That's all I want to inquire about--exclusively.

Having talked with Ray's landlady, Mrs. Loo, and with the fat man, I want to ask Ray about the incident. I don't believe that Ray has ever been asked about the Galt alias by someone who knows all about the real Galt, etc.

Of course, having been burned by assorted, nefarious lawyers, scribes, and newshounds, why should Ray bother? (even though he doesn't have to answer, much less answer candidly). The possible incentive is to obtain information, some of which I possess; some of which isn't mine but I can get clearance from the people who gave it to me in confidence. They won't--they claim--clear it for me to publish or to pass on to other researchers, but they will clear it for Ray (don't ask me why; I think it is more ego-rewarding for them).

I really have little idea if this data would be at all useful, except that I presume that Ray has an interest in turning up

anything the authorities either neglected or suppressed. Four areas of "new" (so far as I know) information.

1. The sketchy but intriguing "Raoul" data developed by the Canadian reporter who still considers it his. HSCA has or had much of it and suppressed it. The reporter is giving me static about clearing it for circulation

2. A lawyer claims he has a sworn statement (I haven't seen it) from a now deceased Jim's-Grill witness--a statement ~~who~~ which he claims to have obtained and checked out in Memphis and which he claims is exculpatory of Ray (he'll probably give it to me if it's going to Ray. This guy has a huge ego).

3. Maybe Ray would like to know about the real Galt's travels and background, and national-security work, etc. which are terribly intriguing even if he insists its all coincidence

4. Ray might be interested in what the fat man has to say

I'm writing to you because this is a serious idea. If it was a throw-away, I could just write Ray out-of-the-blue and I'm sure he'd never respond.

Let me know what you think.

Did the FBI put any of their character-assassination disinformation about you and Lesar on paper or did they just mouth it to the court? It wasn't clear from Jack Anderson's piece. Too bad you couldn't sue the bastards for malicious damage, etc.

Best regards,

Phil